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Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of peace, Author and Finisher of our faith, You hung the stars in their place and put the planets in their orbit. Inspire our Senators to commit this day and their lives into Your gracious care. Give them vision to discern their duties and the strength both of heart and resolve to discharge them. May they rededicate themselves to serving those in need, obeying Your command to labor for the least and the lost in our world. Lord, enable our lawmakers to be a credit and not a debit in the ledger of Your providential purposes.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLI-

BRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the second 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the FAA bill. We will have debate run concurrently until 11:30 a.m., starting with the Sessions-McCaskill amendment and the Pryor amendment, with the time equally divided between Senators SESSIONS and PRYOR or their designees. At 2 p.m., the Senate will vote in relation to those amendments, with Sessions-McCaskill being the first in the sequence. Additional rollcall votes in relation to FAA amendments are expected throughout the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to

speak for up to 10 minutes each, with Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Republican time be extended to 10:10 a.m.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I rise with some of my colleagues today to discuss one of the issues that is going to have a huge impact on how this health care issue is resolved or not resolved; that is, the question of what reconciliation is and what it implies relative to the legislative process.

"Reconciliation" is an arcane term. It is a term that is tied to and created by the Budget Act under which we function in the Congress. It is ironic that the use of reconciliation would become the central effort in buying votes in the House of Representatives in order to pass the big, the giant health care bill, known as the Senate health care bill—which bill, as we all know, expands the size of government by \$2.3 trillion and, in fact, we understand now there is a new score from CBO which is going to raise that number even further when it is accurately reflected.

It takes the government and puts it into basically the business of delivering health care in this country in a way that is extraordinarily intrusive and will cost a lot of people who are on private insurance—the insurance they have—which they probably feel fairly comfortable with although it may be very expensive—and it still leaves 23 million Americans uninsured while claiming to do a better job of insuring Americans and improving our health care system when, in fact, what it does

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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